

Time and Timelessness
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My name is Bob Roan. Thanks for coming.

I'm working to repair the balance between time and timelessness.

The environmental and other world crises are the result of short-sighted decisions. The name says it all. We've lost sight of the eternities.

In the last 50 years, space has spread out in a process we call globalization and to which we've devoted a lot of attention. Meanwhile, time has contracted into the clock pulse in a process which has been pretty much ignored.

In his book "Technology and the Soul," Wolfgang Iser writes

"Time was reduced to what is only one of its modes, succession. The experience of the pregnant moment was transcended in favor of logical, metaphysical and scientific universals."(63)

The change Iser observes has had tremendous consequences.

Succession is synchronization, the transformation of timelessness into time.

The fundamental motivation of our age is to synchronize, the impulse that's gotten our species where it is now, which is way over synchronized.

If you're familiar with Odysseus and the Sirens' Call, you can use that as a map of my ideas. We'll ride the synchronizing archetype to the Sirens Island and listen to the call of destruction.

I'll begin with time, timelessness, and synchronization. Next a pseudo science of circadian rhythms, physics and psyche.

Then more about synchronizing, some ideas about water and its dark side which lead to the Sirens Island.

The rhythms of time and timelessness are everywhere. Consider politics. Romney promised voters in Michigan that he would bring back every job they lost. And soon. This was an operation

in time. McCain said those jobs are gone and we should tap into something more timeless, people's potential.

Obama's rhythm resonates with the general timeless power of hope. Clinton is ready to be president on "day one," and to answer the 3AM phone call, both time things.

Eliot Spitzer mastered the world of time and achievement, but was disconnected from the timelessness of the human condition. The price of admission to the eternal dance of male and female is the unending, timeless vulnerability of imperfection, but he tried to bring it into time, paying for the hour instead of with a lifetime.

Monetizing the future is a way of collapsing timelessness into the present, time. Time as object becomes a denomination. I can spend weeks as easily as dollars.

Measurement is a type of synchronization, an agreement between the measurer and the measuree to rendezvous at the instrument's border. In the realm of quantum physics, the act of measuring is the synchronizer that constellates the random and chaotic electron cloud out of imagination and timelessness and into a real electron.

Smaller time intervals increase synchronization. Smaller clock pulses mean more of them. Every action of a digital device is caused by a clock pulse. Increasing the number of clock pulses makes faster devices capable of processing, organizing and synchronizing more elements.

Synchronizing can be disruptive because it disrupts the disorder of timelessness.

Sonar is a synchronized signal in an unsynchronized world. The laser beam is an intensely synchronized signal in our very synchronized world.

The media barrage is a synchronized signal of quick cuts that disrupts the unsynchronized imagination.

Circadian rhythms might make me tired every 23 hours and 53 minutes and you every 24 hours and 6 minutes. Left on our own, each day, our wake up and bed times would move 13 minutes farther away from each other.

That dilemma is prevented by the sun, which signals the start, middle and end of each day. Our circadian rhythms all synchronize like a computer reset and it's that adjustment which lets us agree on time.

If there was no synchronization, we'd be in a billion different time zones, without a common time. We'd each have our individual time..less, less a common time.

Circadian rhythms lead me to the vibrations of modern physics' string theory.

There are a few resonant frequencies in string theory that correspond to the fundamental baryonic particles of material existence. In the objective psyche, time is as much of an object as a baryon and will also have a resonant frequency or two.

Synchronizing rhythms and synchronizing vibrating strings are the same. One creates time and the other space, the tension of opposites Einstein called space-time.

Vibration itself is a time thing. It has a frequency and period, both of which require time, so we're left with a sequence. First timeless rhythms synchronize into time, providing a place in which vibrations can occur. Then vibrating strings bring matter.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead states "The past situation has just occurred and the future situation has not yet manifested itself so there is a gap"

The gap is the bardo, between times, timeless, unsynchronized rhythms.

I call this time timeless bardo objective psyche concoction the rhythmic thread, a substrate of synchronized and unsynchronized rhythms on which time, timelessness, mind and matter exist. The DAO with a beat.

Time is a talking stick moving through this rhythmic thread. Where time isn't, is timeless, all that which we can only imagine.

Where time is, becomes the focus. Focus is brightness and synchronizes its own set of circadian rhythms into more time. This new time is the self thinking path of the talking stick.

Unsynchronized rhythms are timeless and known by the imagination. Synchronized rhythms constellate time and are known by the senses.

Timelessness and the imagination are linked in dreams. The rhythms in dreams are unsynchronized and that's why, when we try to synchronize them in retelling or remembering, there's nothing to grab onto.

Timelessness may be what scientists call imaginary time, which occurs inside black holes.

However, before we get inside a black hole, we must deal with the infinity at its door, known as the Schwarzschild radius, where the time dilation predicted by Einstein's equations becomes infinite, forming an impenetrable boundary.

If something falls into a black hole, no external observer will ever see it happen. Over an eternity, it will get closer and closer and closer, but never quite get there, like the tortoise and the hare.

If time is a verb that moves processes to completion, and you never see the object complete its trip into the black hole, then there was no movement at the boundary and no time as an action verb.

The Schwarzschild radius is timeless and the imagination is held by timelessness.

Is gravity more timeless than electricity?

Does gravity create unsynchronized timeless motion and electricity synchronized time based motion? The oceans, a very large and moving mass, are with gravity and the moon.

Liquids and gravity have a special relationship. Gases occupy their container. Solids don't change shape. Liquids conform to gravity.

Time and Gravity are related through general relativity. In Einstein's theories the uniqueness of light determines the nature of space and time. Light determining time brings us back to the circadian rhythms.

Gravity and electricity meet in magnetism. The ocean is a magnet, the carrier of a massive and varying magnetic field caused by the motion of the ions in the salt water. Other kinds of ions in the ocean are magnets for everything from dreams to the heroic impulse.

Time and electricity make the clock pulse.

The clock pulse enables modern synchronization, the defining work of the digital age. The computer is pure synchronizing time machine.

We've lashed ourselves to the clock pulse, whose digital devices let us vicariously experience the world while safely remaining in the vessel of our own simulated lives.

However, the clock pulse is way sharper than a razor and the digital paradigm has sliced and diced timelessness, surgically excising the soul from modern life.

The story of the clock pulse is also a story of Zeus, the god of electricity, and Chronos, his hungry, timeless father. Electricity castrates timelessness and Zeus begins his journey from lightning bolts to clock pulse.

The clock pulse tamed Zeus, which is quite an accomplishment. He was wild and thunderous and is now a puny 3.3 volts obediently following traced lines on a circuit board.

No wonder we're all zombies. If the clock pulse can get Zeus to toe the line, who am I to resist the infotainment stream?

Time is a two headed uroboros. No moment lasts forever is timelessness eating time. Synchronization is time eating timelessness. Zeus eats and is eaten. Castrates and is castrated.

Instants after the big bang, there was only chaos, the unsynchronized rhythms of the primordial universe, and Eros, the synchronizer.

Synchronizing brought time.

Time brought us through evolution, which rewards the ability to synchronize. We've taken synchronization into the digital age and traded timelessness for the infinity and one over myth. Good things will last forever and bad things one over infinity.

The desire to extract natural resources from the ocean is a grasp for timelessness, a way to continue thinking we have an inexhaustible supply of natural resources. So is using the ocean as a dumping ground for waste.

Popularity is a time thing. What's popular in 2008 is not what was popular in 1908 or 1958 or will be in 2018. Celebrity is extremely time dense because of the synchronization required to get to the right places with the right people at the right time with the right look.

We are increasingly immersed in pop culture's ocean of images and data, synchronized not by the brightness of the sun but by the brightness of the message. Instead of noon, the cognitive flash of popular culture resets us to Miller Time, or game time or to "thanking god it's Friday" time.

Now that clocks are ubiquitous and constant presences all getting their time from the same atomic source, synchronization occurs on a vast scale. Your car is full of synchronization. So are your computers, TVs, and telephones. Your furnishings and clothes are the product of synchronization in machinery, materials, knowledge and global supply chains.

All that synchronization will soon be synchronized. The video card in your TV will know what you've been buying, what you wear, what you said on the phone last night and where you're parked. And it will be in constant communication, synchronization, with Google Earth, which will be providing you with a nonstop stream of synchronized images bearing instant messages of advertisements designed to reset you in a way that feels empowering.

Not as much synchronizing occurs in the ocean as on land, but the arc is clear.

The data haze is getting denser at the boundaries.

Our personal electronics are sending synchronizing signals into the waves at the shore. Singing penguins dance their way off the Hollywood screen and into our hearts. New technologies enable underwater explorers to map and mark more areas into the globally synchronized grid. Commercial development brings time into the ocean as everything from construction schedules to electronic signals.

We're also filling the ocean with embedded synchronization, in the form of everything from the plastic straps of soda six packs to drugs flushed down our drains. Modern pharmaceuticals, a sophisticated mixture of manufacturing, research and marketing synchronization, attempt to synchronize psyche into time so we can move from the eternal messiness of life into moments of happiness.

The ocean and the earth are both essentially timeless from our life expectancy. And popular only for the way they make us feel about ourselves. The ocean in literature or song is there as mirror, for us to reflect from.

The ocean is dark in many ways.

It's full of death because the rhythm of life includes death. The timelessness of living forever would disrupt the rhythm of time.

Creative destruction is the operating principle of the cosmos and the ocean reminds us this is not a popularity contest. A blink of chaos returns Atlantis to timelessness. A burp and typhoons, earthquakes and hurricanes wreak destruction. Not the cuddly wuddly images of nature that we so quaintly revere.

Water is able to dissolve more substances than almost any other liquid because it's sincere, earnest and persistent. All the molecules feel the structure of the other molecules, making it touchy feely. Water sticks together because it's loyal.

Water becomes buoyant as it chills, a nice trait in people. It freezes from the top down. The head before the heart before the creative ocean beneath.

Multi media connects ocean and non-ocean. The ocean comes onto land in a screen saver and we bring our waterproof IPODs into the ocean.

Our cleansing products smell ocean fresh and portable DVD players take command of the beach.

Multimedia unbundles the ocean experience and divided it falls.

It used to be our sense of timelessness, our creature selves, who interacted with the ocean.

Now technology mediates. Onboard navigation knows which way to go. The gods can't confuse us.

Technologies like GPS are the new Ariadne's thread, letting even the most foolish enter the labyrinth.

We're sailing the ocean in our globally positioned synchronization archetype, safe inside the heroic fantasy of popular culture. We lash our Ulysses dramatically to the clock pulse and listen for the Sirens' song.

Out of gravity's deep and dark, through the haze of MP3, the sea demons rise.

Our winds quiet and our seas calm.

The water's song of death and immortality call us to the Sirens' Island of flowering meadows and rotting flesh.

Ulysses is not one to choose death over triumph, the smoke signal over the text message.

A triumphant return home lies ahead. It's a no brainer.

Thank you.